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Law is not a static body of rules. The past meets the present and creates a future. - Mr Justice M.R. Shah, Judge, Supreme Court of India

HAPPINESS alone can improve efficiency and productivity. Let us stay HAPPY and spread HAPPINESS around us. – GNLU Director Dr Shanthakumar

Gandhinagar, July 17, 2020: Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) today celebrated its 17th Foundation Day. Given the current situation, the celebrations were held virtually.

Hon'ble Mr Justice M.R. Shah, Judge, Supreme Court of India and a Member of the GNLU General Council delivered the Foundation Day address.

In his address, Mr Justice M. R. Shah congratulated the Director Dr Shanthakumar, faculty, students, staff and alumni on the occasion of the Foundation Day, and conveyed his best wishes to them. He said that “Foundation Day is a moment to celebrate the rich past and an advent of a promising future.”

Mr Justice Shah said that it was the dream of Shri Kirit Raval, former Solicitor General of India to establish a world-class national law university in Gujarat. Mr Raval planted the idea in the mind of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat at that time) and GNLU came to be established in the year 2004. It is indeed heartening to note that in a short span of 17 years, GNLU has achieved incredible feats in ranking among the top-most law schools in the country. He expressed a hope that GNLU will be ranked as No.1 law school in the country soon.

He commended the role of GNLU in contributing to the judiciary of the country noting that up to the last year, more than 100 GNLU alumni have entered judiciary.

Mr Justice Shah recalled the contribution of the founding fathers including late Mr Ashok Bhatt, the then Law Minister of Gujarat, late Mr Kirit Raval, founding Director Dr V. S. Mani and the immediate-past Director Dr Bimal Patel in the process of institution building.

Referring to the Covid-19 pandemic, Mr Justice Shah said that we are passing through tough times but nothing is permanent. After every sunset, there is a sunrise. He said that there are many challenges today but in every bad situation, we have to find out good things; there are things you can only learn in a storm. “The need of the hour is to have patience and courage,” he added.



Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

He asked law students not to get disheartened. He said that businesses will always require trained legal professionals in the long run. Certain areas of law will be in greater demand in comparison to others. Health care laws, property law, bankruptcy and insolvency law, public interest litigation, Class Action suits, environmental law, animal rights law, Alternative Dispute Resolution and technology laws are likely to emerge as focused areas post-COVID 19.

Observing that law is a dynamic field, he said that we have to make sense not merely of the world as it is today but also of the world as it is becoming. “Law is not a static body of rules. The past meets the present and creates a future,” he added.

Earlier, in his welcome address, GNLU Director Dr Shanthakumar thanked all stakeholders – past and present – for their invaluable contribution to the making of GNLU as a world-class university. He expressed confidence that, with their support, GNLU will attain the numero uno position among law schools in India before long. He further said that “I believe that HAPPINESS alone can improve efficiency and productivity. So, let us commit on this Foundation Day to stay HAPPY and spread HAPPINESS around us”.

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